

THE LIFE and DEATH

OF

Damaris Page,

THAT

Great, Arch, Metropolitan (old-Woman)

OF

Ratcliff High-Way.

Who (through Age and Sicknels) de-  
parted this Life at her Maner of the Three-Tuns in the  
Parish of *St. Mary* the 9th day of this present *Octo-*  
*ber*, and was buried the Sunday following at  
*St. George's* in *South-wark*, with great La-  
mentation of all the Sister-hood.

Hugh Peters, R. Z.

Let us while we are li- - - - - wake use of our time, for a mans life  
is butted in a day,

LONDON, Printed for R. Norton at the Harle-Bar in Wines  
Smith-fild. 1669, 5

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~~P. b. 22, a. 9~~  
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Let us whilst we are li- - - make use of our time, for a mans life  
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LONDON, Printed for R. Burton at the Harle-Street in W. -  
Smith field. 1667. 5

THE  
LIFE AND DEATH

OF  
DAMIAN'S PAGE

THAT  
GREAT ARCH, METROPOLITAN (OLD-HANOVER)

OF  
BACCHUS, HIGH-WAY

WHICH (SINGING AND DANCING) DO  
PRACTICE AND ARE KNOWN OF THE THREE THINGS IN THE  
FABLE OF THE DAY OF THE GREAT OCEAN  
AND ARE KNOWN OF THE FOLLOWS  
IN THE FABLE OF THE FOLLOWS  
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THE  
LIFE AND DEATH  
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LONDON, Printed for B. Barton at the Horse-Moose in Wall-  
Street, 1660.



## The Life and Death

### O F Damaris Page

**D**amaris Page, as is conjectured, was born about the Year 1601, and as it is thought in the Month of March, because she was used to turne Storms and birres blacke, which the Month is much subject unto she was called in that a month of very great fame for the Seamen had spread her name abroad into all the countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and America, and the Isle of Pines also, in which Country she was had in very great respect and Veneration by the Indian natives there, for those notable qualities which she was endow'd with. Now there is none of us famous for any thing but only for some particular. Dr. Rowley was very famous for being a conjurer, *Hiss* and *Hammon* were famous for their Thievery, Dr. *Rowley* was much noted for his skill in a Vagant, *Rowley* was famous for making of Ballads, and *Squire Duns* got a great name for his excellent skill and dexterity in the riding knot, whereby in half an hours time he would cure a Man of the Squinancy, as he did often experiment at that terrible Tripple Tiburnine Place that stands in the Road betwixt London and Paddington a Gentleman of by was famous for his skill in Quidd for his skill in Tobacco-stoppers, and another that I knew got a great name for his admirable dexterity in making of New and old with him more famous than the old one. — was most notable for keeping a house of ill fame, that I call it, for it had divers names, some called it the Seamen's whirlingpool, others *Venus Bower*, *Cupid's Pelt-house*, the Chyrurgions friend, the *Heccons Office*, a Vaulting-School, the amorous Chace, a Brothels a Stew

the hock-strings Academy, the hole in the Wall, &c. But the down-right Seaman when he was gotten three quarters drunk, would call it in plain English, a Sawdy-house.

And therefore though she kept great hospitality, she could not be said to keep a good house, and though she had many female servants she kept few Maids, dealing much in bristle. Were that were often subject to cracks and flaws, whom the Cityargues was forced to play the Tinker with in mending them, the other materials belonging to her house, were a clof Box, with a hide bed to kennel in clean times, Trest powder, plaster, patches, plaister, pick bottles of Wine at two shillings a bottle, Ste-pony, Raspberry-ale, Cock-ale, Cakes, a Barrel of Beer, a tub of new ale, a Gallon of Strong-water, two Gallons of Brandy, Cam, Black por, Pipes ready filled with smoking instead of Spanish Tobacco, Cards, a Pils-por and a piece of crotched chalk that should make two scores at once, for the greater celerity in writing.

And though some have reported her to be of a very hasty roward pre- vish disposition, yet we know contrarily that she was indued with a great stock of patience, as was evidently manifested when the unruly rabble on *Easter Day* defaced her mansion of pleasure, breaking her goods, eating in pieces her beds, making the leeches to fly about the streets, yet notwithstanding she were thus wronged, she was not heard to give them any bad words, but contrarily called them *good gentlemen*, and *very gentlemen*, with other Sugar-candy words, nothing favouring of frothing, bragging, or impatency at all.

But though she had some virtues, certainly she had more vices, than any Smith hath to work withall, for she would lye in her bed every night she would scold, but that she learned of her neighbours; she would drink, and eat too, else could she not have lived so long; she would talk, for she was not tongue-tied, yet was she very fast of her word, for it she promised to help a man with a wh— she would not help him to an *easy woman*.

And what can be desired more I pray.  
Then people for to do as they do say.

And though some may think she got her living very lightly, and with much ease, yet certainly they were greatly mistaken; for besides the rigour



rigour of the Law, which them of her occupation are liable unto, as in  
prisonments, Cartings, and the like; there was besides great charges  
for Fines and Fees to Justices, Clerks, Beadles, and such other inferior  
relieves of Authority; beside a great deal of charge for white and red  
to employ decayed Nature, and to hide the furrows and wrinkles of old  
age, which should they have appeared, might have been very detri-  
mental to one of her profession; and therefore whatsoever some may  
think, a B—— doth not get her living with so much ease as the world  
supposeth, nor is that adventure of her danger of Casting to be slighted.

Now I would not have any one so be mistaken, to think because our  
*Damru* died at *Race-High way*, that she was the old woman that was  
drowned there a Forth gut ago; No, be it known to you that she feared  
more burning then drowning; and besides too, wearing Cork shoes,  
she was so light heel'd, that had she been thrown into the water, she  
would nor have sunk.

No doubt but her ambition was very great in striving to imitate the  
examples of some former great Potentates and Noblemen, who upon the  
committing of some heinous Crimes, to expiate their names, as they  
thought, would build Monasteries and Religious houses; which as that  
well language Historian Mr. Spilthinks, their foundations being laid  
in blood, or as bad matters was one great cause of their downfall in the  
time of King *Henry the Eighth*, so she was very charitable to the Poor  
whiles she lived, which yet I may speak not as any way blaming her,  
and, as I am informed, at her death gave amongst other Legacies, im-  
munity to buy Smocks for a hundred poor Seaman's widows, an example of  
which I wish many that detested her life would practice at their Death.

She dyed on Saturday morning the 9th day of this instant *March*, and  
was with a great concourse of people streight forth interred in *St. George's*  
in *South Park* on Sunday following, and afterwards, where were  
the rests in the *Grave* secure from a *Winter* and a *Summer* *variation*.

Her Elegy

And is it true; is *Damru* dead indeed

And hath pay on *Death's* table *Gibson* *Woe*





And yet oftentimes we by experience know  
 Great Oaks being gone, the Shrubs will faster grow  
 Farewell thou noted Female, henceforth be  
 Fam'd with *Lace, Thais, Cherrina, Rhodope*  
 And yet so long as *Lotenens Lane* stands still  
 Doe and *Ratchiff* yard, *Whetstones* park, and *Easton* hill  
 Who lieth for to seek there he may find  
 Though thou art gone, more *beams* are left behind.

### Epitaph

Pass by Reader, and forbear  
 To inquire who lies here,  
 We do not mean believe to chat  
 Within here lies vertuous, modest, great;  
 And such like Epithets be spread  
 Open the living belye the dead,  
 We be not so wondrous big no praise  
 Let this suffice and go your ways.

Some few Legacies which she bestowed by word of mouth  
 a little before her departure:

*Imprimis* to all the *Sister-hood* in *Nightingale-Lane Well-thrife*,  
*Ratchiff-High-way*, and those petty places of Trading, two pence a  
 piece, to buy thred to mend their Stockings.

*Item*, I give to all those who having handsome Wives of their  
 own yet follow whores, the sum of four pence a piece to buy  
 them a book called *Greens goatsmouth of wit*.

*Item*, I give to all the *Dammees* *Hectorian* blades about the  
 Town, the sum of thirteen-pence half-penny a peice, to pay the  
 successor of *Squire Dun*, his wages when they shall have need of  
 him.

*Item*, I give to all Thieves, Cut-purses, and Pick-pockets good  
 counsel



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